

### COMMENTS

The enclosed is responsive to the Examiner's Office Action mailed on August 4, 2003. At the time the Examiner mailed the Office Action claims 12-31 and 33-44 were pending. By way of the present response the Applicant has: 1) amended claims 12, 21, 33 and 39; 2) added claims 45 – 50; and, 3) not canceled any claims. As such, claims 12 – 31 and 33 – 50 are now pending. The Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application and the allowance of all claims.

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication provided in the Office Action mailed August 4, 2003 that claims 12 – 20, 31 and 33 – 44 are to be allowed.

Only independent claim 21 and its dependent claims presently stand rejected. Independent claim 21 stands rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 6,560,219 B1 (hereinafter "Tabu"). The Examiner has reasoned that Tabu discloses a SONET and ATM bus structure as depicted in Figure 17 of Tabu (See, Examiner's Office Action mailed 8/4/03, pg. 2) and is therefore sufficient to anticipate claim 21.

In response the Applicant has amended claim 21 to make it clear that the first backplane is implemented in a different system than that which the second backplane is implemented. As Figure 17 of Tabu shows busses integrated within a same system, it is impossible for Figure 17 of Tabu to anticipate claim 21. Therefore the Applicant respectfully submits that claim 21 and its dependent claims are presently allowable.

In light of the comments above, the Applicant respectfully requests the allowance of all claims.

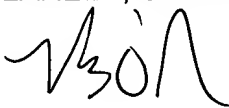
Comments

If there are any additional charges, please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2666. If a telephone interview would in any way expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Robert B. O'Rourke at (408) 720-8300.

Respectfully submitted,

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